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BOOK REVIEWS

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE. A PLAY IN THREE ACTS. By Edith Gittings Reid. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price \$1.25.

The Florence Nightingale Play Competition, one of the many efforts to commemorate Florence Nightingale's centennial, resulted in twenty-eight plays being submitted to the Committee appointed to study them and award the prize of \$500 offered by the Central Council for Nursing Education. This Committee consisted of Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, Marylka Modjeska, granddaughter of the famous actress, Alice Beer, and Lillian D. Wald,—persons whose fitness for the task was unquestionably great. The play submitted by Professor Harold Newcomb Hillebrand, of the University of Illinois, was awarded the first prize. Much as we would like to read this play, it has not been published. A second play, "Florence Nightingale," by Edith Gittings Reid was awarded honorable mention. It is a happy privilege to have this fine study in attractive book form. Far be it from me to question the judgment of the Committee, but it is difficult to conceive of a more sympathetic presentation of Florence Nightingale's character and work than Miss Reid's. It is a clear-cut, vivid picture that does justice to Florence Nightingale's superb qualities and achievements, and shows remarkable insight and understanding of her personality. Through it all runs a strain of dignified restraint that one fancies Florence Nightingale herself would approve.

It is easy and pleasant to picture student nurses presenting this play on

various festive occasions, possibly as part of a Christmas programme, or as a new and unique Commencement exercise, and best of all it will help them to catch the spirit of our great leader. The foreword is worth reading many times, in fact it almost challenges memorizing because of its inspirational value.

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PERSONAL HYGIENE APPLIED. Jesse Feiring Williams, A.B., M.D., Associate Professor of Physical Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. Price \$2.50.

There are times when one is almost tempted to agree with the irritated lecturer who stated that "the world is suffering badly from health fads and faddists," but even a cursory examination shows this book to be free from fads, and convinces one that the author is anything rather than a *faddist*.

Without doubt interest in health today is very great. This is as it should be, for the value of health cannot be overestimated provided it is not made an end and aim in itself, but rather a means to a fuller life of worth-while service. The great value of this extremely readable book is that it aims to set forth the rules of health and to connect them with "the deep and ever-flowing source of human action where ideals, ambitions, attitudes, prejudices, hopes and aspirations are born."

It is planned for college students, not only those whose special interest centers